(c) The hostilities between the Goveinment Forces and LTTE since June 1990 have led to continuing influx of refugees tind large-scale civilian suffering. Only a negotiated political settlement which takes into account legitimate Tami] demands can iead to a lasting peace in Sri Lanka and create conditions which would permit the return of all refugees.

U. S. armed forces in the Gulf

691. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US armed forces have given indications that they would leave the Gulf region only after attaining the basic objective of Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait; and

(b) if so, what action Government contemplate to defuse the tension in that area?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) A number of United States officials have made statements to this effect.

(b) Government are of the view that every effort must be made to seek a peaceful solution of this crisis; and that the first step towards such a solution would be the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the restoration of the sovereignty and independence of the latter.

Resolution of Krishna water dispute

692. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a> whether it is a fact that the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra met at Tirupathi and Bangalore to resolve the Krishna water dispute; and

(b) if so, with what result?

TH_E MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra met at Tirupati and Bangalore on 21-4-1990 and 22. 8. 1990 respectively to discuss the issues relating to the Telugu Ganga Project and sharing of surpms Krishna waters^

(b) After discussing various alternative proposals, it was decided to meet again at Mahabaleshwar.

U. N. Observer Mission in Kashmir

693. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present strength of U. N. Observer Mission in Kashmir;

(b) the purpose for which these U. N. Observers were posted there;

(c) whether the circumstances which necessitated their posting in Kashmir still exist-

(d) if not, whether Government propose to take up this matter with the U. N. O. for the withdrawal of U. N. observers; and

(e) whether any militant in Kashmir had contacts with the U. N. observers there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The current strength of UN Observers stationed in Kashmir i_s 37.

(b) The UN Military Observers Group was established specifically with reference to the old 1949 ceasefire line which has no validity any longer. They have not been entrusted with any responsibility in regard to the present Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) No, Sir.